Government have made one time additional allocation of Paraffin Wax Type-III to all Statas/UTs during the quarter October-December, 1991. The share of Kerala State in the additional allotment of Paraffin Wax Type-III is 157 MTs.

[*Translation*]

Raising on Age Limit for Civil Services Examination

3428. SHRI SURESH ANAND SWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to raise the age limit for Civil Services Examination and also to remove the restriction on the number of attempts for appearing in this examination;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c). The upper age limit for the Civil Services Examination is 28 years and the maximum number of attempts permitted at the examination is 4. However, for the 1992 examination it is proposed to fix the upper age limit at 33 years and the maximum number of attempts at 5, as a special case. This liberalisation will be admissible only for the 1992 Examination.

[*English*]

Extraction of Minerals from Indian Ocean

3429. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV:
SHRI DEVENDERA PRASAD YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimate has been made of various minerals lying in the bed of the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to get a survey conducted about these minerals and to extract the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Pioneer Area, which is located about 1,600 km. from Cape Comorin in the Indian Ocean, measures 150,000 sq. km. of this, we have to surrender half to the International Authority. The remaining half measuring 75,000 sq. km. has an estimated potential of about 380 million tonnes of polymetallic nodules. These nodules are estimated to contain 3.5 miiiion tonnes of Nickel, 3.2 million tonnes of Copper, 0.5 miiiion tonnes of Cobalt and 72 million tonnes of Manganese.

(c) Survey and Exploration for polymetallic nodules is already under way. There is also a programme of developing a deep seabed test mining system which is being implemented by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur, as the nodal Agency. The system would be progressively developed to a fully operational deep seabed mining system. Research and development on extractive metallurgy is also being conducted at the National Metallurgical Laboratory (Jamshedpur), Regional Research Laboratory (Bhuban eswar) and Hindustan Zinc Limited (Udaipur).

[*Translation*]

Pollution by Rawat Bhata Nuclear Power Plant

3430. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: